CIRCULAR.

Fredericton, 30th May, 1853.

SIR,—The Legislature having granted £200 to each of the County Agricultural Societies on condition of £50 more being subscribed for the importation of improved breeding horses, it is to be hoped that the Societies will not allow the matter to sleep without making some exertion towards working out the objects of the grant. The fact that New Brunswick, with all her meadows and pastures, does not produce horses enough, nor of sufficient quality, for her own use, without sending to the neighboring Provinces for her best ones, ought to be sufficient inducement to improvement, without adverting to her proximity to the States as a profitable outlet for extra stock if they could be raised, or the increased demand certain to follow in the track of railways.

The chief points in which improvement is needed are weight and substance. Take them as a whole the horses of New Brunswick are far too light for many of the purposes for which they are required, and even for such work as they are weight for, they want substance to enable them to go through it unhurt. The lumberman, the wagoner, the ship-builder, and even the farmer who would cultivate his farm deeply and thoroughly, can all of them bear testimony to the difficulty of getting horses sufficiently heavy, while the number of crippled and used up animals everywhere betoken the want of bone and substance needful to sustain the exertions they are called upon and otherwise willing to undergo. The Canadian and the Vermont horse have both of them been spoken of as likely sources from which to improve those of New Brunswick, and both have numerous points about them to admire; their form and proportions indicating what experience proves them to be possessed of, namely, activity and endurance; but both are objectionable for want of weight. Take them by themselves (even the best and heaviest of them) they would be too light for a number of the purposes needed in this Province, and, coupled with its still lighter mares, and the deteriorating treatment to which many of the colts are likely to be subjected, no great permanent improvement could be expected from their introduction among us.

The only two British breeds, combining the necessary additional strength and weight which New Brunswick would need, without diminution of endurance and activity, are the English Suffolk and the Scotch Clydesdale, and, in any combined scheme of selection for the good of the Province it would be advisable to have part of both. The Suffolk Punch is the Canadian horse, made in a larger mould, the average weight of the breed being nearly as one and a half to one. He can walk in the plough or on the road four miles an hour, is gentle, good constitutioned, and his truthfulness at a dead pull is proverbial the kingdom over. The Clydesdale horse has more of the proportions of the Vermont horse, but will be nearly twice the weight. He has great power, courage, and endurance, and is hardy and easy to keep. The Suffolk breed is of the two, the most uniform, and is found in greatest perfection in the midland counties along the east coast of England. The Clydesdale is now to be found in all parts of Scotland and in the north of England, and is the kind chiefly used for farming and draught. In consequence of greater variety of location the breed is less uniform than the Suffolk, the size and weight varying with the situation in which the individuals are propagated. The heavier kinds are to be found in Clydesdale itself, the Lothians, parts of Fifeshire, the Carse, and the lower parts of Aberdeenshire. The lighter and hardier specimens in most of the Border counties, the upper part of Perth and Aberdeen shires, and along the whole of Banff and Moray.

In selecting from either of these breeds it would not be advisable to make choice of the largest specimens, as such are less likely to be of pure blood than those of more moderate size, the desire to increase the weight sometimes tempting the breeder to cross in a heavier male or female of inferior quality, trusting to breeding back again to the original stock for keeping the form right with an addition of size. Neither would it be prudent, though such were met with, to select the exact stamp of horse that is wished to be re-produced, as the deteriorating and diminishing effect of the class of mares to be used has to be also considered, and it is the medium

animal likely to result from the union of the two, that is the standard from which to calculate back in making a choice. Neither would it be wise to take any horse unless of very superior promise, but such as had given proof of his capabilities by the number and quality of his stock. There is no rule of selection equal to this, although it is one involving trouble and acquaintance with the ways of the country to work it out.

The probable cost of good, not over large, animals of either of these breeds, would be somewhere about £150 Sterling; if prize specimens at any of the principal agricultural shows, likely the amount of the prizes in addition, as these are forfeited when the winner leaves the district. The best time to select, in fact the only time when a *number* could be selected, is the last half of July and month of August, as then the County, District, and General Shows, are held; and these being previously known, a person acquainted with the country, by arranging his track so as to take in the greatest number of these, would have more opportunities of seeing and comparing than he could have again by running after individual animals till that time twelvemonth.

The sum of £200 currency, even augmented by £50 subscribed, would fall considerably short of meeting the charges incurred by any individual county in sending an agent to purchase, with the additional cost of freight and other items; but, should any of the societies wish to go into the scheme alone, means will be found of putting them in communication with parties in England or Scotland, for whose confidence and fidelity in selecting, a guarantee can be given. The safer way, however, would be for a few of the counties to join, when a small amount from the funds of each, would admit of an agent, knowing the exact thing needed, and acquainted with the Scotch and English markets and breeds of horses, going over to make the selection, and coming back in personal attendance on the animals bought. An agent thus specially appointed, and knowing that he was liable every day to be confronted with his purchases, would have a care and responsibility on him in selecting that would not be felt by even the most trustworthy person who was to part with them on the other side of the Atlantic.

If, on consideration of the foregoing details, it should be determined to co-operate in the way above suggested, it might be found possible to secure the services of Mr. Cuming, Veterinary Surgeon, St, John, for the undertaking. In this way, we have no doubt, the business would be well done, and the greatest benefit secured at the lowest rate to the country. Mr. Cuming, from whom we have derived most of the information in connection with this subject, considers that the agent for England should be at work no later than the end of July, and consequently an early decision on the subject is most desirable.

Should circumstances make it impossible to go thus favorably into the English market, the same mode of conjoint action on the part of the New Brunswick Agricultural Societies would apply to an agency in the United States or Canada.

The foregoing considerations are earnestly pressed upon the attention of the officers and members of agricultural societies and farmers in general, and the favor of a reply is respectfully requested by

Sir,

Your very faithful servant,

J. ROBB,

Secretary New Brunswick Society.

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